



# The Harbinger

Newsletter of the  
Illinois Native Plant Society

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*"... dedicated to the preservation, conservation, and study of native plants and vegetation in Illinois."*



The Annual Gathering in June was my fifth or sixth such event. In the past, I drove down, heard lectures, and took field trips to places I could never possibly have found on my own where I witnessed nature in all its gorgeousness. This time was different. As Editor of **Harbinger**, I was hunting for articles and interacted as never before with the membership. What talent, knowledge, and passion I found! INPS people are not just nature enthusiasts—they are the experts who make the decisions and do the work that nurtures the natural environment for this generation and those to come. It was an honor to learn who my colleagues are.

*Victor M. Cassidy, Editor*

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- INPS News



*Camassia angusta*  
(Prairie hyacinth),  
an Illinois  
endangered species,



## Governing Board

### **President**

Chris Benda

### **Past President**

Janine Catchpole

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## Message from the President

This year was my first Annual Gathering as President of the Illinois Native Plant Society. The Forest Glen chapter hosted a terrific event and the botanizing was terrific! Read more about the event on pages 5 & 6.

One of the many things discussed at the last governing board meeting was the election for 2016. We are calling for nominations for a few open positions so please contact someone on the board if you would like to serve.

I also requested a “call-to-action” from our members at the Annual Gathering. This organization is run for members, by members, and no special qualifications are necessary to play an active role. Please let us know how you would like to get involved. We have many ongoing projects!!

Last spring I wrote a letter asking Governor Rauner asking him to declare the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in June as Illinois Pollinator Week and I am glad to announce that our request was granted and I received a proclamation in the mail from the Governor! I am proud of this small success, but know there is more to be done.

There are other issues on which we have voiced our support as well. We submitted a witness slip for adding species to the Exotic Weed Act which prohibits their sale. We wrote a letter asking the Governor to declare October as Oak Awareness Month. We signed a letter of support of the Antiquities Act, which allows the President to protect places like the Grand Canyon and Pullman as national monuments via executive action.

Lastly, I wish to end with a one reason why we are members of the Illinois Native Plant Society. We love wildflowers. I specifically love wild orchids and I find it exciting to go out in search of them. Here are photos I took recently of three species of state endangered orchids in Illinois, from left to right: Purple Fringed Orchid (*Platanthera psycodes*), Crested Coralroot Orchid (*Hexalectris spicata*), and Yellow Fringed Orchid (*Platanthera ciliaris*).



# INPS CHAPTER NEWS

## NORTHEAST CHAPTER - Chicago

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## Northeast Chapter (Chicago)

The Northeast Chapter took advantage of the beautiful spring weather to visit a few of the high quality areas in our part of the state. In early April, we took a trip to Trout Park Nature Preserve in Kane County. The unique geology and hydrology of this site have given rise to a large forested fen where we viewed early spring bloomers such as skunk cabbage and marsh marigold. This site is also one of the few in the state where our native arborvitae can be observed in the wild. A few weeks later, we toured Black Partridge Woods, a nature preserve in Cook County that overlooks the Des Plaines River. The varied topography of this site offered us the opportunity to view the many native flowering plants that reside in the seeps at the bottom of the bluffs as well as the bellwort and Dutchman's breeches that grow along the drier ridges.

The Northeast Chapter has also rolled out a monthly newsletter to keep members informed of past gatherings and future events. The newsletter includes a word from Chapter President Andy Olnas, pictures, and observed species lists from recent field trips. There is also a calendar of upcoming events and volunteer opportunities in the region. The newsletter also links to our Facebook page where members can post pictures of native plants observed during Northeast outings or during their own excursions.  
[www.facebook.com/illinoisnativeplantsocietynortheastchapter](http://www.facebook.com/illinoisnativeplantsocietynortheastchapter).

In August, we will tour Ball Horticultural Company in West Chicago. Join us!

## Quad Cities Chapter (Rock Island)

No current news to report.

## Irene Cull Chapter (Peoria)

No current news to report.

## Forest Glen Chapter (Danville)

The Forest Glen chapter worked like dogs at the 2015 Annual Gathering! Thanks to all of them for making the event a grand success!

## Central Chapter (Springfield)

The Central chapter is hard at work planning our **Annual Native Plant Sale**, to be held on April 25<sup>th</sup>. We had had a couple great programs this year, including an enlightening **Introduction to Botanical Latin** presentation by Dr. Steven Hill. View our past programs on our website at [www.ill-inps.org/index.php/central-videos](http://www.ill-inps.org/index.php/central-videos). Also check out the link to articles by Henry Eilers.

In May on the 14<sup>th</sup> we welcome INPS President Chris Benda who will speak about **Natural Areas in Illinois**. Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, INPS members are invited to visit Ken Schaal's prairie restoration. Starting with an introduction at his home (13197 E 13th Rd, Hillsboro, Illinois) at 9:30 AM, Ken plans to lead a tour through the area to see what's blooming mid-spring on the prairie.



## **Southern Chapter (Carbondale)**

The Southern Chapter has had a great year so far, offering a full schedule of programming and getting good turnouts for our events. Our new publication **Guide to Summer Wildflower Hikes in Southern Illinois**, is available for free at all INPS Southern chapter events and Visitor Centers in southern Illinois. In June, we hosted Kay Rippelmeyer, local historian, who recently published a book about the Civilian Conservation Corps in southern Illinois. She gave a fascinating presentation and signed books afterward.

On August 1, we are hosting a field trip to Sand Prairie Conservation Area in Benton, MO. On August 15 & 16, Paul Marcum, INPS President-Elect, will teach a two-day Grass Identification Workshop. The workshop will be held at Southern Illinois University and at the property of Rhonda and Robert Rothrock in Pomona. On September 18-20, Chris Benda and Eric Ulaszek will lead a fern workshop based out of Camp Ondessonk in Ozark, IL. For details, contact

[suthernillinoisplants@gmail.com](mailto:southernillinoisplants@gmail.com).

For more information on the Southern Chapter, visit [www.il-inps.org/index.php.southern-chapter](http://www.il-inps.org/index.php.southern-chapter)

## **Kankakee Torrent (Bourbonnais)**

The Kankakee Torrent chapter is set to host their first ever chapter native plant sale tomorrow from 10-2pm at Camp Shaw in Manteno, Illinois. See the flyer on page 13.

On August 3rd, Jennifer Durkin, horticulturalist from Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, will be speaking at the Kankakee Torrent Chapter monthly meeting on all things related to seed harvest. 7:00 PM held at the University of Illinois Extension Office, 1650 Commerce Drive, Bourbonnais. Business meeting at 6:30 PM.

On August 22<sup>nd</sup>, there will be a Wildflower Nature Walk with the Illinois Native Plant Society. Come learn about local native plants and invasive species at the state park! The local Kankakee Torrent chapter of the Illinois Native Plant Society will present about the endangered Kankakee Mallow and a walk will follow the presentation. Event from 9am-12pm

Also, the volunteer stewardship network awarded the Friends of Langham Island \$768 for restoration supplies to help with the management occurring at Langham Island, home of the endemic Kankakee Mallow (*Iliamna remota*).

## **Grand Prairie (Bloomington/Normal)**

Roger Anderson and Chris Benda are on the steering committee for the 2016 North American Prairie Conference. The conference will be in Bloomington-Normal on July 18-20, 2016. We are currently looking for topics and leaders for the breakout session., (4 sessions - each lasting one hour on Monday July 18 ). One of the topics that will be of interest is "seeds of native prairie plants" - sources of seeds for restoration, landscaping and other purposes. More information and a "Save the Date" announcement will be available soon.

# **Welcome to New and Returning INPS Members**

## **CENTRAL**

William Armstrong  
Marla Atterberry  
Tina Bennett  
Philip Cox  
Kathryn and David Dobrinic  
Karyl Dressen  
Grace Garin  
Steve Hochstadt  
Kathy Homa  
Jim and Charlene Kenney  
Vonda Laffey  
Adam Porter  
Rob Rusciolelli  
Tracy Scaduto  
Elsieann Sielschott

## **GRAND PRAIRIE**

Mary Jo Adams  
Klaus Skreiner

## **NORTHEAST**

John and Lisa Ayres  
Anna Braum  
Lisa Cederth  
Mary Ann Feist  
Kirk Frazier  
Anthony Gross  
Brian Hale  
Shaw Kassia  
Melissa Lopez  
Monica Sykora  
Tom Underwood  
Sarah Whidden

## **KANKAKEE TORRENT**

Gail Battistoni  
Rhonda Best  
Kimberly Hum  
Authur Mattson

## **SOUTHERN**

Todd Dietterle  
Aimee Hemphill and Sam Spiller  
Margaret Krueger  
Jon McClurken  
Kurt Neubig  
Ryan Pankau  
Michelle Rapp  
Roger Webb  
Pat York

## **QUAD CITIES**

Eric Enstrom  
Sue Gibson

## **FOREST GLEN**

Susan McIntyre  
Jeffery Peyton  
Katie Mae Smith

## **TRIP REPORTS FROM ANNUAL GATHERING**

### **Eric Ulasek: Fern Workshop and Field Trip to Portland Arch (Indiana)**

The fern workshop began as an indoor session, with a review covering fern biology, reproduction, ecology, and taxonomy. Living material was used to demonstrate fern anatomy and reproductive biology, including a terrarium of gametophyte prothalli. Though the prothalli form an important component of the fern life cycle, they are often overlooked in the field. There were also herbarium specimens of the most commonly encountered ferns and fern allies found in Illinois available for examination.

After the indoor session, participants car-pooled to Portland Arch Natural Preserve, just across the state line north of Covington Indiana. Portland Arch features a diverse array of habitats for ferns, including sandstone cliffs and outcrops (both moist and dry), mesic upland forest, dry woodland, and a mesic floodplain forest. After a brief lunch, field trip participants hiked down into the valley to view the ferns and their habitats. Participants brought hand lens and fern manuals, and spent considerable time learning to identify the ferns present. The twelve species of fern identified by the participants include:

1. Lobed Spleenwort (*Asplenium pinnatifidum*)
2. Walking Fern (*Asplenium rhizophyllum*)
3. Grape Fern (*Botrychium dissectum*)
4. Rattlesnake Fern (*Botrychium virginianum*)
5. Bulblet Bladder Fern (*Cystopteris bulbifera*)
6. Common Fragile Fern (*Cystopteris protrusa*)
7. Hay-scented Fern (*Dennstaedtia punctilobula*)
8. Silvery Spleenwort (*Deparia acrostichoides*)
9. Marginal Shield Fern (*Dryopteris marginalis*)
10. Interrupted Fern (*Osmunda claytoniana*)
11. Rock Polypody (*Polypodium virginianum*)
12. Christmas Fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*)

A second species of shield fern (*Dryopteris* sp.) was observed, but unfortunately the foliage did not have the mature sori and other features to allow positive identification. There were also many late spring wildflowers in flower at Portland Arch, including Indian-pink (*Silene virginica*), woodland thimbleweed (*Anemone virginiana*), valerian (*Valeriana pauciflora*), and slender blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium angustifolium*).

### **Chris Benda: Middle Fork River National Scenic River Canoe Trip**

We piled into several canoes for our tour on the Vermilion River, which is the only National Wild and Scenic River in Illinois. The first stop was Horseshoe Bottoms Nature Preserve and there was a lot of mud in the recently flooded river. The site was covered in wood nettle (*Laportea canadensis*), but we were able to navigate our way to the black ash swamp thanks to our local guides Jim Smith and Grant Cunningham. Other highlights were Firepink (*Silene virginica*) and Purple Rocket (*Iodanthus pinnatifidus*).

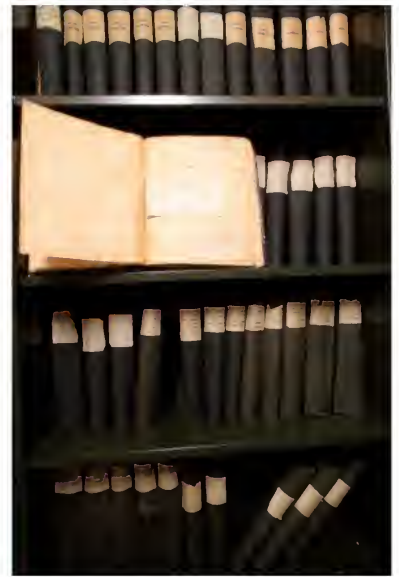
The second stop and the main highlight of the trip was Windfall Prairie Nature Preserve. This site has high quality calcareous seep and glacial drift hill prairie remnants. While Phragmites at the site is a concern, the natural communities are excellent. On our way up to the hill prairie, we saw a mat of the basal leaves of Grass of Parnassus (*Parnassia glauca*)—certainly a calcareous area!

The hill prairie was a marvelous sight. Many species were in bloom like Hairy Wood Mint (*Blephilia ciliata*), Wild Rose (*Rosa carolina*), Downy Phlox (*Phlox pilosa*), Meadow Parsnip (*Thaspium barbinode*), and Wild Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*). But the real highlight was seeing the Indian Paintbrush (*Castilleja coccinea*) spotting the prairie with blasts of red. The rest of the trip was a nice paddle down a very scenic river. We timed ourselves just right, as less than 24 hours later, significant rainfall flooded the river and made it unnavigable.

## Paul B. Marcum: Herbarium and Prairie Rarities Tour

In the winter of 2011, the University of Illinois vascular plant (ILL) and fungal herbaria, along with the U of I's Crop Evolution Laboratory (CEL) herbarium, were merged into the Illinois Natural History Survey's (INHS) newly established Evers Building. The building named for Dr. Robert Evers, long-time noted botanist from INHS and famous expert of Illinois hill prairies, was to house the INHS plant and fungal collections (ILLS) along with the plant and fungal collections from the University. Combined they are the 15<sup>th</sup> largest collection in the United States and easily the largest and most important collection of vascular plants from Illinois.

The tour of the herbaria highlighted stories of notable Illinois botanists: Agnes Chase, George Neville Jones, and Henry Allen Gleason, to name just a few. We viewed plant and fungal collections, including some of the 4,000 type specimens (first of kind, used to name the taxon), the rare and valuable fungal and algal exsiccata, and E.J. Hill's oak acorn collection. We discussed the current herbaria digitization project and saw a demonstration of the ILLS database.



Closeup of the glabrous corolla tube of Sangamon phlox.

After this brief stop, the tour participants focused solely on seeing some of Illinois' rarest plants—*Phlox pilosa* ssp. *sangamonensis* (Sangamon phlox) and *Camassia angusta* (prairie hyacinth). Sangamon phlox, a rare central Illinois endemic, is restricted to a 25 mile by 1 mile corridor along the Sangamon River in Champaign and Piatt Counties. It differs from other subspecies of *P. pilosa* by the glabrous corolla tubes. Also, the leaves and stems of Sangamon phlox are usually glabrous or glabrescent. This beautiful and rare plant, the focal taxon for this year's Annual Gathering, is mostly restricted to prairie and savanna remnants along railroad corridors. It is threatened by mowing and aggressive herbicide treatment. We were fortunate to see about 20 blooming plants. It is likely that only a few hundred plants of this taxon remain in the state.

The wild hyacinth, a species more common southwest of Illinois, is now restricted to a single degraded railroad prairie remnant near Decatur, Illinois (Macon County). The plants were just beginning to flower and nearly 50 flowering plants were observed at the site. Typical population numbers have ranged from around 30 to 170 plants. Differences between prairie hyacinth and the more common wild hyacinth (*C. scilloides*) include later flowering time, smaller and darker purple flowers, capsules that are longer than wide, and the presence of numerous persistent bracts on the scape. Like the Sangamon phlox sites, while degraded this site remains a valuable representative of the once common prairie habitat that was found throughout much of Illinois. Without these remnants a part of our natural heritage would be lost forever.

**More photos from the Annual Gathering can be found at**  
<http://www.ill-inps.org/index.php/events/annual-gathering#tripreports>



## CAREX NORTH TO SOUTH IN ILLINOIS

By Lindaeus (lcurtisbotanist@ameritech.net)

Illinois is such a long state that the lower tip has southern species of *Carex*, such as *C. gigantea*, that only grow in the four lower counties at the tip and southward. Conversely, the glacial remnant bogs in northeast counties have species similar to northern Wisconsin and most of the bog *Carex* are on the endangered list because their ecosystems are endangered. In between, the sand prairies on the Lake Michigan coast have much in common with those in the central and western prairies and woodlands. A person may not see all the *Carex* species on their lifetime checklist (excuses, excuses).

More than 159 species, excluding varieties, of *Carex* grow in Illinois, and most are habitat specific. The tiniest *Carex* grow along the sand dunes of Lake Michigan coast where tiny *C. umbellata*, umbrella sedge, is shorter than a morel mushroom in April (Figure 1).

In bogs, the *Carex* tend to be small as bogs are nutrient poor. Marshes, on the other hand, are nutrient rich. Mossy bog peat and grass-sedge peat with visible pieces of stems and leaves decay into smooth muck, few pieces recognizable. You may sink in watery peat but you can get stuck in the sticky muck. Do look for around for sedges in the meantime while waiting help for someone to pull you out.

The largest sedges include *C. stricta*, tussock sedge, and grow along marshes forming knee high hummocks created by a peculiar rhizome growth that grows upward instead of outward. For endangered young Blanding's Turtles, the fibrous bases are perfect hiding places for the young turtles that burrow in and keep watch for small insects passing by. You might spot the eyes in a under a tussock (Figure 2).

When the tussocks are growing tall, their hummocks may be hidden from sight. Walking in a marsh or sedge meadow is difficult and falls are common frontwards and backward.

Grab some of the culms on your way down or back up and observe that *C. stricta*'s culms have tall seed heads with one or two male spikes that are separate from the lower female spikes. Sometimes the spikes are androgynous and have half and half spikes with male scales and stamens at the tip, the female or pistillate spikes lower on the culm (Figure 3).

The female portions of spikes have velvety pale perigynia, more flat than fat or appear compressed, and are have short reddish scales (Figure 4). Sedge meadows have tall culms, many a meter tall, and enough to make walking through a challenge. That's why I included a drawing of early trappers traversing a Lake Michigan sedge meadow in my Bog-Fen *Carex* book.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

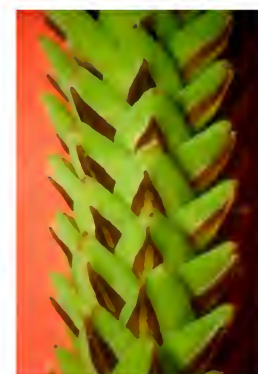


Fig. 4

## CAREX NORTH TO SOUTH IN ILLINOIS (continued)

For those who have portaged a large canoe with three persons know the importance of all three staying in step, and the poor fellow in the middle just found his legs stuck and splayed. Disaster is eminent in his French cry of dismay that means “holy blue!” (Figure 5).

Still, depending on the season, dried sedge leaves make good foot and leg wrappings for those without socks in their boots as the trappers would know. Older summer sedges would not be useful as the leaves became harsh and raspy. The older dried leaves were useful as tinder for starting campfires.

A sedge common around lakes and sedge meadows is *Carex lacustris* known as “rip-gut” by the trappers but lacustris means “of the lake”. The leaf margins have serrated teeth and slice like a paper cut. The magnified leaf edge reveals why *Carex* means “to cut” (Figure 6).

Linda Curtis has fallen over tussocks, been sliced by serrate leaves on the arms and face, and stuck in the muck. Her lost shoes will be forever preserved. As for peat bogs, knowing how to step from root to root has saved her most of time. Grabbing branches, some of the time, but grabbing the right branches (remember poison sumac?) has a zero margin of error.

[www.curtistothethird.com](http://www.curtistothethird.com)

**CORRECTION:** *Carex* Corner Star Sedge metric units using coins should be a dime edge one mm, nickel edge 2 mm, and a dime’s nose 4 mm. LWC



Fig. 6



Fig. 5



# **DIXIE BRIGGS FROMM PRAIRIE PRESERVE**

**By Al Wilson, Volunteer Site Steward**

Over the past thirty years, the adjoining towns of Lake in the Hills and Algonquin, Illinois have experienced dramatic residential and commercial growth. In 1997, the local government established an "Open Space" program to acquire and preserve land that would never be developed, but used for public recreation.

When the local government learned that Dixie Briggs Fromm, a local farmer, had directed that her 150 acres were never to be developed after her death, the government purchased the land. A grant paid for seed and initial work to restore her 70-acre farm field to prairie. Native prairie plant seeds were sown with a farmer's seed drill. Further restoration and annual controlled burns have helped these plants thrive and become a good seed source.

Dixie Creek, which bisects the property, was once a small farm field drainage stream. It has a year-round tributary along the base of a hillside below a nearby residential development. Its confluence with Dixie Creek occurs halfway along that course through the preserve.

The area surrounding the Dixie Briggs site, which had once been farm fields, became a residential development with a school and a big paved parking lot. Storm water now reached Dixie Creek immediately and in great quantity! The land west of the old farm field drops sharply to Dixie Creek, which became a severely eroded valley that was overgrown with alien species. Kane County paid for major flood control engineering and restoration of the stream banks. For details, visit

<http://dewprojects.countyofkane.org/dixieBriggsFromm/index.asp>.

To select a suitable passive recreational use for the property, a surveyor was hired to establish land contours and boundaries. Botanically knowledgeable, he recognized an endangered *Ranunculus rhomboideus* (Prairie Buttercup) growing in an open field. When botanists came to see the *Ranunculus*, they found several other threatened and endangered species. The whole preserve is strewn with Glacial Erratic boulders (left behind when the glaciers melted) which peep above grade. Result: the area was grazed, but never plowed and many rare plants survived.

To the north of the tributary stream is a pristine gravel hill that escaped damage by real estate development and a mining company. "Plants of Concern" monitors several habitat-specific species that survive on the hill. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources Nature Preserve Commission has declared the site a State Dedicated Nature Preserve.



The high fen.



Hired professionals and volunteers have combined to make great progress at Dixie Briggs Fromm Prairie Preserve. Recently, as Volunteer Site Steward, I have become aware of another aspect of our work. We are accustomed to our restoration efforts being rewarded by the emergence of new species. Three examples of this have brought me fresh insights into restoration.

- On public tours, I stop at a particular spot to tell visitors that once, while I was clearing brush at the side of the trail, I heard a “Plop” sound. I cut my way toward the sound and discovered water flowing over a boulder into a pool where the frog had jumped. I traced the flow back to a hillside seep where the water had an alkaline Ph. of 7.8. This inspired a major clearance and, about three years later, 18 *Gentiana alba* (Cream Gentian) plants appeared. The next year there were over 100 plants and now they have spread down to the stream.
- While we were clearing the upper slopes of the gravel hill, we reached a wetland area that was completely surrounded by aliens. Progress revealed a distinct line across the hillside with a dramatic change in vegetation. Eventually we found a graminoid fen with sedge tussocks and year-round seepage. The surrounding alien trees were crowned by a canopy of Oriental Bittersweet, some of whose vines were over six-in. diameter, fodder for the chainsaw! Our continuing work has resulted in an annually increasing outflow down an obviously historical water course. It will soon reach Dixie Creek, which is 40 ft. below the fen. We are seeing an increase in habitat-specific plants as well as birds and insects.
- 2014 was the third year of restoration work on a boulder-strewn valley above our sedge meadow. We have been removing all the usual aliens, including Oriental bittersweet. There has been an increasing intermittent flow through the valley’s wetter area where boulders and standing water have impeded our work.



*Gentiana crinita*  
(Fringed gentians)

We asked the Illinois Geological Survey in Champaign to tell us why we have so many boulders at Dixie Briggs Fromm. When a geologist arrived, she initially thought that the boulders were there because the farmer had cleared the land. She then saw that Glacial Erratics litter the entire preserve. Expanding on my suggestion that they were present because of erosion, she acknowledged that it was possible that snow melt and storm water runoff washing away glacial till had created the sedge meadow over many years. The boulders suspended in the till then settled to the valley floor.

The sedge meadow is larger and wetter as a result of clearance. It now has three small outlet streams. Flow down the valley, which once was intermittent, is rarely so. In 2015, we were delighted to find nine *Gentiana crinita* (Fringed gentians) growing in the wetland that surrounds the sedge meadow. Further up the slope, a nice colony of *Gentiana andrewsii* (Bottle gentian) has appeared. We are not just restoring the preserve, but the hydrology too as we remove thirsty aliens.



## **NEWS**

**INPS Board** Meetings are held quarterly and are open to the membership. Members wishing to participate should contact Rachel Goad, Board Secretary [secretary.inps@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.inps@gmail.com). Spring and Fall meetings are held by conference call. The winter meeting is a retreat. Dates are Wed, Oct 14<sup>th</sup> from 6-9 p.m.; retreat Sat & Sun Jan 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>; and Wed, April 6<sup>th</sup> from 6-9 p.m.

**Plants of Concern** wants to expand to southern Illinois and is collecting names of potential volunteers. After training, volunteers will seek rare plant populations, collect standardized data about them, and submit it to Plants of Concern. A list of potential volunteers will convince funders to support the program. For more info, contact [rgoad@chicagobotanic.org](mailto:rgoad@chicagobotanic.org).

**Illinois Pollinator Week Proclamation** Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner proclaimed Illinois Pollinator Week in June of 2015.

**Plant Sales** Chris Benda reports that the INPS Central Chapter has had a plant sale for years and it is very lucrative. The Southern Chapter successfully partnered with Green Earth in 2015. More sales should follow!

## **INPS AND IDOT**

Here we summarize Janine Catchpole's account of INPS, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), and invasives along Illinois highways.

"In February of 2014," she states, "I wrote the IDOT Director and all regional Directors to thank them for publishing and sharing the teasel control poster that promoted identification and timely control. I also explained why INPS members are concerned about the spread of teasel and other invasives along state highways."

Invasive weeds like teasel destroy the IDOT's native plantings along the interstate system and state highways. Native plantings are immensely important to animals like migrating birds and the monarch butterfly. With only one-tenth of one percent of native prairie left in Illinois, the green IDOT corridors are, in many areas of the state, almost the only food, pollen, and nectar sources available to the base of the food chain.

Catchpole urges INPS members to report any major infestations they observe to IDOT, giving mile markers or GIS coordinates.

<http://apps.dot.illinois.gov/WER/Email/SubmitQuestion>.

Catchpole has suggested that INPS members might consider working with IDOT, forming an advisory group to assist management and staff on issues related to native plants and invasive species. Follow up with [j9-catchpole@comcast.net](mailto:j9-catchpole@comcast.net).

## **CLASSES**

**INPS Southern Chapter** will have a **Grass Identification Workshop** at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale on August 15 & 16 and a **Southern Illinois Wild Fern Foray** on Sept 18-20 at Camp Ondessonk, Ozark, IL. For info, contact [southernillinoisplants@gmail.com](mailto:southernillinoisplants@gmail.com).

**Grass and Sedge Identification Workshop** Scott Namestnik, senior botanist, with Orbis Environmental Counseling, will lead indoor/outdoor classes for advanced students at the Morton Arboretum on Sept. 17 & 18 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Visit [www.mortonarb.org/courses/sedge-identification-workshop](http://www.mortonarb.org/courses/sedge-identification-workshop).

## **PUBLICATIONS**

**Bog-Fen Carex of the Upper Midwest** The INPS' own Linda Curtis (*Caricologist formidabilis*) has demystified Carex by cleverly grouping the 83 wetland species of the upper Midwest into nine sections based on similar perigynia or "seed sacs." The perigynia have distinct design and size ranges. Magnification is necessary for the smaller species, but the patterns are distinct enough to find the right section and make the correct identification. Contact [lcurtisbotanist@ameritech.net](mailto:lcurtisbotanist@ameritech.net).

**How to Recognize Common Diseases of Oaks in the Midwest** This fully-illustrated pocket-sized field guide from the U.S. Forest Service was written to help arborists, forest woodland managers, and private landowners identify and manage the most common diseases of oak trees in the Midwestern states. Visit

[www.na.fs.fed.us/pubs/howtos/HowToRecognizeCommonDiseasesOaks.pdf](http://www.na.fs.fed.us/pubs/howtos/HowToRecognizeCommonDiseasesOaks.pdf).

**Illinois Threatened and Endangered Species List** The new Illinois list became official on May 19, 2015. See:

[www.dnr.illinois.gov/ESPB/Documents/2015\\_ChecklistFINAL\\_for\\_webpage\\_051915.pdf](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/ESPB/Documents/2015_ChecklistFINAL_for_webpage_051915.pdf). Read the latest **Invasive Species Phenology Report** at <http://illinoisism.blogspot.com/2015/06/phenology-report-for-june-18-2015.html>.

**Welcome to Subirdia**, a book by John M. Marzluff explains that by practicing careful stewardship with the biological riches of our cities and towns, we can foster a new relationship between humans and other living creatures—one that honor and enhances our mutual destiny. From Yale University Press (\$18 pbk.)

**Be a Hero – Transport Zero Campaign** is an article from the Illinois Invasive Species Awareness Month that urges the public to prevent the spread of invaders by not moving biological material such as firewood from place to place. See <http://illinoisism.blogspot.com/2015/05>.

**Selecting Plants for Pollinators** Chris Benda recommends this guide and the accompanying map. <http://pollinator.org/PDFs/Guides/EBFContinentalrx13FINAL.pdf>.

**A New Field Guide to Illinois' Butterflies** contains an identification quick guide consisting of 103 crisp photos of the topside of all the butterflies that have been sighted in Illinois along with a reference to the page where species details can be found. Available from <https://shop.inrs.illinois.edu/inhs-an.html>.

## **HELP WANTED**

**Milkweed/Moth Study** Miranda Kersten, an MA student at Oklahoma State University is studying milkweeds and the unexpected cynia moth (*Cynia inopinatus*), which uses milkweed in its egg and caterpillar stages. As part of her research, she hopes to acquire range-wide observations of the unexpected cynia caterpillar so she can learn more about its habitat requirements. Please e-mail observations to [Miranda.kersten@okstate.edu](mailto:Miranda.kersten@okstate.edu).

**Diesel Pollution** The Environmental Law and Policy Center seeks Chicago-based citizen-scientists to help them assess the impact of diesel pollution on the environment. Diesel pollution damages human health and also degrades floral odors used by bees to find flowers. Susan Mudd of ELPC wants to set up an air monitor (for pm2.5, which is associated with diesel) in Chicago neighborhoods, and is looking for volunteers, which she will train for the project. Contact [SMudd@elpc.org](mailto:SMudd@elpc.org)





# Grass Identification Workshop

Two-day Workshop  
at Southern Illinois University

Instructor: Paul Marcum

August 15<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am to 4:00pm

August 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 1:00pm

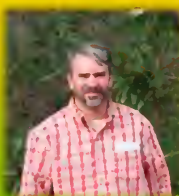
\$15 donation includes lunch

To register, please email [southernillinoisplants@gmail.com](mailto:southernillinoisplants@gmail.com)



Are you interesting in learning how to identify native southern Illinois grasses? There are many species native to this area and this workshop will cover the common species likely to be encountered in the wild. Participants in this workshop will learn the basics of grass identification and terminology. The workshop will include both classroom and field instruction. No previous botanical experience is necessary. Limit 20 participants.

To register, email [southernillinoisplants@gmail.com](mailto:southernillinoisplants@gmail.com) or call Chris Benda at 217-417-4145 and you will receive instructions for payment and lunch options. The workshop will begin at 9:00am on both days in room 423 of the Life Sciences building on the campus of Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. The field portion will be nearby at Rothrock Prairie in Pomona.



A native of Ohio, Paul received a B.S. from Shawnee State University in Portsmouth, Ohio and an M.S. from Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia. Paul is honored to be among the ever growing list of Dr. Robert Mohlenbrock's Botanical Grandbabies. Paul is the Assistant Project Leader for Botany with the Illinois Natural History Survey, where his work has focused on wetland delineation and mitigation, with additional projects studying natural communities and rare plant species throughout Illinois. Paul is also President-elect of the Illinois Native Plant Society.

This workshop is made possible by a grant from the Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund.



## THE ILLINOIS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY, KANKAKEE TORRENT CHAPTER

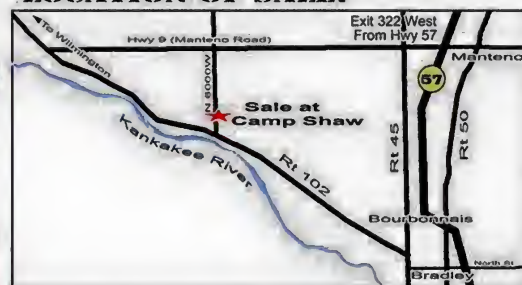
2015

# NATIVE PLANT SALE

10am to 2pm  
**Saturday, August 1st**  
Camp Shaw-waw-nas-see  
Manteno, Illinois

- ◆ Wildflowers and Grasses for Sun or Shade
- ◆ Native Trees and Shrubs Available
- ◆ Enjoy the Beautiful Grounds of Camp Shaw
- ◆ Fun Activities for Children of All Ages
- ◆ Presentations on Natural Gardening

### LOCATION OF SALE:



Visit us on  
Facebook

at Illinois Native Plant Society - Kankakee Torrent Chapter

## Garden Clubs of Illinois President's Project 2015 MILKWEED FOR MONARCHS

You have read many statistics about the catastrophic plummeting number of monarchs seen in Mexico, their migration site and all across Texas, the Midwest and Canada. Each of us, although we are only One, can help reverse monarch numbers and assure there will be monarchs in our future. And that is... Plant Milkweed! – the only plant that monarchs will lay their eggs on.

Every member of the Public and every Garden Club can bring back monarchs, one milkweed plant at a time, one re-seeded back road at a time with no expense or modest expense to Milkweed For Monarchs is being developed as a multifaceted project involving planting native swamp milkweed, (*Asclepias incarnata*), butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), and common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) where appropriate throughout the state.

1. Garden Clubs of Illinois will work with the Department of Natural Resources to get flower seed including milkweed into any roadside restoration projects or construction being done around the state such as infields of ramps and interchanges. IDOT officials have announced They Will Use All Seed We Will Give Them. Find and Save Seed Now!

2. GCI is working with Ward Johnson's 501c3 charity, Save Our Monarchs Foundation from Minnesota, (PO Box 390135, Minneapolis, MN 55439) which is dedicated to giving away

350,000 swamp milkweed seed packets free by 2016. Think of ways to pass out seed— you as an individual or your club: Fund

raisers, Earth Day events, Arbor Day, special programs. Other organizations: Women's clubs, church groups, Girl and Boy Scouts, 4-H—all waiting to distribute and plant milkweed seed around

our beautiful state. For seed packets immediately, contact [SaveOurMonarchs.org](http://SaveOurMonarchs.org). Plan Your Garden Project! All IL garden clubs and individuals are encouraged to collect milkweed seeds— swamp milkweed,

butterfly weed, and common milkweed. Find Seed Now!

- Individuals will find byways in their communities and disperse seed along Osage orange hedgerows or wild areas where there will be no complaints—not near farmers' fields.
- Individuals will collect and de-fluff the three kinds of milkweed seed. Any excess seed not needed for individual dispersal projects should be separated by variety and given to Kay MacNeil. This seed may go to IDOT projects or may go back into the GCI Milkweed For Monarchs seed dispersal project. Find and Save Seed Now!

- Anyone who does not have access to wild seed or garden grown milkweed seeds but wants to help plant milkweeds on byways or in their individual gardens may contact Kay by sending a Stamped Self Addressed Business Envelope and \$2. You will receive three kinds of milkweed seed with instructions. Call me if you need advice, have ideas, or want to help.

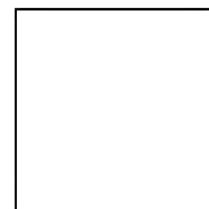
Kay MacNeil – GCI Milkweed for Monarchs Chairman Phone: 815-469-1294. Email: [kaymac60423@yahoo.com](mailto:kaymac60423@yahoo.com)

# ILLINOIS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Forest Glen Preserve  
20301 E. 900 North Road  
Westville, IL 61883

[illinoisplants@gmail.com](mailto:illinoisplants@gmail.com)

[www.ill-inps.org](http://www.ill-inps.org)



*Dodecatheon frenchii* –  
French's Shooting Star

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## 2015 Summer Harbinger – August 2015

You can renew/join by filling out the form below or online at our website,  
[www.ill-inps.org/member](http://www.ill-inps.org/member)

Please become a member and support this local non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation, conservation, and study of the native plants and vegetation of Illinois!!!



### Join us!

- ☐ New member
- ☐ Renewal
- ☐ Address Change only

Mr./Mrs./Ms./Miss/Dr. \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Year \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Check here if you *need* to receive newsletters by postal mail\*

### Membership Categories

- ☐ Student.....\$13.00
- ☐ Individual.....\$20.00
- ☐ Family (new category).....\$30.00
- ☐ Institutional (nonvoting).\$20.00
- ☐ Supporting.....\$30.00
- ☐ Patron.....\$55.00
- ☐ Life.....\$300.00

### Chapter Affiliation

- ☐ Central (Springfield)
- ☐ Forest Glen (Westville)
- ☐ Northeast (Chicago)
- ☐ Southern (Carbondale)
- ☐ Quad City (Rock Island)
- ☐ Irene Cull (Peoria)

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:  
ILLINOIS NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  
Forest Glen Preserve  
20301 E. 900 North Road  
Westville, IL 61883



**GO GREEN!** If you are receiving a black and white newsletter by postal mail, please help us lower our costs by signing up for an electronic copy in color. Please send your email address to [illinoisplants@gmail.com](mailto:illinoisplants@gmail.com) to be added to our email distribution list. Please "like" us on facebook at [www.facebook.com/illinoisplants](http://www.facebook.com/illinoisplants).